

hemisphere who was chosen in what many voters believe is a flawed 2000 election. Many people in his country and around the world believe that this president misled his people into a violent conflict in which many lives were lost. Revelations of corruption including falsifying documents, financial mismanagement, gross overcharging by well-connected corporations, kickbacks to politically allied organizations continue to accumulate. What is the proper response of the people of that country who no longer wish to be led by that president? Because it is a democracy, the answer is clear: vote him out at the next election.

I speak of President George W. Bush, not President Jean-Bertrand Aristide of Haiti.

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Those of us who do not support President Bush will work to remove and replace him in the November 2 election. That is the way we do it in our democracy. In a democracy, one does not take up arms against an elected President. We do not threaten his life nor is he forced out of the country nor are convicted murderers and drug dealers and armed thugs welcomed in to do the dirty work. In a democracy, one goes from elected President to elected President and not coup d'etat to coup d'etat.

So this is a very, very sad time for those of us who believe in democracy. The Bush administration had the choice of defending the democratically-elected government in Haiti or supporting its overthrow. It chose the latter. Jean-Bertrand Aristide was the first democratically-elected President of Haiti, his successor due to be chosen in the next presidential election in 2005.

Over the last several weeks, an armed insurrection was organized by former death squad leaders, convicted murderers and drug dealers. They used terrorist tactics to take over police stations and then cities which were protected by only a very small government police force.

The New York Times describes these so-called rebels: "The public face of the rebel army is the smile of Mr. Guy Phillippe. He is suspected by both Haitian and United States officials of cocaine trafficking. Mr. Phillippe has few democratic credentials. In 2001 he stood accused of planning a coup. Government said he masterminded a raid on the Presidential palace that left seven dead. He is joined in this rebellion by Louis Jodel Chamblain, the convicted assassin from FRAPH."

The New York Times described FRAPH as "an instrument of terror wielded by the military junta that overthrew Haiti's embattled Jean-Bertrand Aristide in 1991. It killed thousands over the next 3 years."

Rather than coming to the defense of the democratically-elected government of Haiti, the Bush administration joined with the anti-democratic forces

in the country to call for the President's ouster.

The administration, our administration, the Bush administration has consistently supported a small, elite group in Haiti whose principal economic interests is working with multinational corporations to exploit Haiti's vast pool of cheap labor. It is not a pretty history.

Last weekend, the United States and the international community met with President Aristide, at which time he agreed to a power-sharing proposal made by CARICOM and supported by the United States and France. He agreed but the opposition refused. Colin Powell extended the deadline, but the opposition stood by its insistence that Aristide step down, essentially dead or alive.

So, in the end, the Bush administration sided with the murderers, with the terrorists. While it is unclear exactly what happened early Sunday morning, the message from the U.S. to President Aristide was crystal clear, the United States will not protect you from being cleared by the assassins that are on your doorstep.

So President Aristide has gone. People are dead. The brutal former dictator Duvalier is on TV saying he wants to come back. Guy Phillippe wants to reinstate the brutal army. Chaos reigns in Haiti.

Where do we go from here? Clearly, we need to be part of this international force to establish security, but it would be shameful if we do not look back and figure out how we got into this mess, that is, to have a full investigation of every taxpayer dollar that was spent in Haiti and find out whether it was involved in the destabilization of Haiti. We have to assure the security of the Aristides so that they can go to a country where they can be safe, and we have to help the refugees. We need that full investigation, and we will be pushing for it, starting tomorrow.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BACA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. HINOJOSA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today through March 10 on account of business in the district.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal business.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. REYES (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of the California primary.

Mr. CASTLE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and March 3 on account of a death in the family.

Mr. CHOCOLA (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and March 3 on account of official travel to Libya.

Mr. KING of Iowa (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of illness.

Mr. PENCE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. ROYCE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and March 3 on account of official travel to Libya.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BECERRA, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DELAHUNT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOFFEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. SOUDER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SOUDER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 3 and 4.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCCOTTER, for 5 minutes, March 3.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, March 3. (The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. LEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles: